GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1235
ANSWERED ON:07.12.2015
Diamond Business
Venkatesh Babu Shri T.G.

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

a) the estimated quantity and value of generation of diamond business in the country particularly from Surat and other neighbouring areas and the number of workers associated with the industry and employment generation therefrom;

b) whether there is a huge drop in the production of all major diamond polishing units and large number of employees associated with this industry are rendered jobless and few of them have committed suicides and the industries are facing the threat of closure;

c) if so, the details thereof;

d) whether the Government has taken any steps to protect the industry and the employees associated with these industries; and

e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)
(a) Port-wise data in respect of cut and polished diamond is at Annexure-I. As reported by Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC), approximately 4.6 Million people are employed in the industry.

(b) & (c) Due to the global economic slowdown, marginal decline has been noticed in the gem and jewellery exports during the year 2014-15 (US$ 40.62 Billion) as compared to the previous year 2013-14 (US$ 41.01 Billion). However, Government has taken a number of measures to boost the diamond industry and the same have been elaborated in the reply to part (d) and (e).

(d) & (e) With a view to promote the diamond industry, Special Notified Zone (SNZ) for consignment import/export of rough diamonds has been established at Mumbai where rough diamond mining companies will directly bring their production. This will help in reduction of transaction cost of Indian diamantaires and also ensure steady supply of rough diamonds for the Indian diamond industry. Also, Government has taken a number of other steps such as providing financial assistance for participation in international fairs, organizing buyer-seller meets etc. under Market Development Assistance (MDA) and Market Access Initiative (MAI) Schemes of the Department of Commerce to boost the diamond industry.

Annexure - I
PORTWISE EXPORTS OF GEMS & JEWELLERY FROM INDIA DURING THE LAST THREE YEARS
2014-15 2013-14 2012-13
Region C & P Diamonds Return Consignment Total Net Exports % Share in Total C & P Diamonds Return Consignment Total Net Exports % Share in Total C & P Diamonds Return Consignment Total Net Exports % Share in Total

Region Lakhs cts US$ Mill Lakhs cts US$ Mill Lakhs cts US$ Mill US$ Lakhs cts US$ Mill Lakhs cts US$ Mill Lakhs cts US$ Mill US$ Lakhs cts US$ Mill Lakhs cts US$ Mill Lakhs cts US$ Mill US$
Mumbai 342.12 22751.41 14.66 3356.31 327.46 19395.10 97.99 329.70 21697.42 18.93 4851.67 310.77 16845.75 85.76 306.35 18778.10 17.39 4174.76 288.96 14603.34 74.34
Bangalore 0 3.30 0.00 3.30 0.02 3.22 0.00 3.22 0.02 0.00 0.00 0.00
Delhi 0 6.85 0.00 6.85 0.03 16.64 0.00 16.64 0.08 5.35 0.00 5.35 0.03
Surat 2.59 332.71 0.01 2.77 2.58 329.94 1.67 22.31 1833.57 22.31 1833.57 9.33 25.93 1833.35 25.93 1833.35 9.33
Kolkata 0.17 4.21 0.17 4.21 0.02 4.89 659.27 4.89 659.27 3.36 2.77 294.44 2.77 294.44 1.50
Hyderabad 0.01 2.19 0.01 2.19 0.01 5.57 202.02 5.57 202.02 1.03 13.61 369.38 13.61 369.38 1.88
Jaipur 0 27.84 7.62 0.00 20.22 0.10 30.60 3.58 0.00 27.02 0.14 28.54 1.72 0.00 26.82 0.14
Chennai 0.14 1.15 0.14 1.15 0.01 0.03 1.60 0.03 1.60 0.01 6.75 164.94 6.75 164.94 0.84
Vishakhapatnam 0.33 30.45 0.33 30.45 0.15 3.48 54.14 3.48 54.14 0.28 12.72 133.03 12.72 133.03 0.68
TOTAL 345.36 23160.08 14.67 3366.70 330.69 19793.38 100.00 365.98 24498.48 18.93 4855.25 347.05 19643.23 100.00 368.13 21607.13 17.39 4176.48 350.74 17430.65 88.74
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